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CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Demographic dynamics and sustainability

(Chapter 5 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (E/CN.17/1996/10 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which included information on a broad range of factors that have been shown to have had significant impact on demographic variables and on population and sustainable development policies in general, taking into account the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). 1/ The Commission acknowledged the importance of actions taken by Governments in support of the formulation and implementation of national population policies and programmes. The Commission noted with satisfaction that greater importance is being attached to population questions and to the need to integrate population factors into environment and development planning, according to information obtained from field offices by the Task Force on ICPD Implementation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Commission also welcomed the activities and measures undertaken by non-governmental organizations and members of the United Nations system as follow-up to chapter 5 of Agenda 21 and chapter III of the ICPD Programme of Action.

1/ See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

2. In view of the continuing relevance of the proposals made at its third session, the Commission reaffirmed the decisions made at that session on the further implementation of chapter 5 of Agenda 21 and chapter III of the ICPD Programme of Action.

3. The Commission encourages Governments, regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to develop, conduct or support research studies on gender-sensitive analysis and the linkages between population, poverty, consumption and production, environment and natural resources, education and health as a guide to effective sustainable development.

4. In order to give greater visibility to the critical linkages between population issues and developmental and environmental issues, and to increase people's understanding of such linkages, the Commission encourages Governments and non-governmental organizations, and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to formulate and implement effective information, education and communication strategies that take into account such linkages, thereby creating the necessary conditions for the rapid achievement of the goals of Agenda 21 and the ICPD Programme of Action.

5. The Commission underlines the importance of the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of sustainable development planning and programmes, as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action, 2/ and emphasizes the need for Governments to integrate women, on an equal basis with men, in decision-making regarding sustainable resource management and the development of policies and programmes for population and sustainable development. The Commission urges Governments, United Nations system organizations and non-governmental organizations to mainstream a gender perspective, including gender-sensitive analysis, inter alia, as an essential step in the development and monitoring of sustainable development policies.

6. The Commission suggest to the Economic and Social Council that it examine the division of labour between the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development in the future consideration of the issue of population and sustainable development, taking into account the link between chapter 5 of Agenda 21 and chapter 3 of the ICPD Programme of Action.

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Combating poverty

(Chapter 3 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on combating poverty (E/CN.17/1996/9).

2. The Commission reiterated all decisions made at its third session on the issue of combating poverty.

3. In accordance with Commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 1/ adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, the Commission urges Governments to formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency and preferably by the end of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), national strategies to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce overall poverty. Such strategies should be comprehensive in order to address all aspects of poverty and integrate gender perspectives, and should also be geared towards substantially and sustainably reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities, and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context. In addition, the Commission recommends that Governments integrate environmental issues in such strategies and ensure that they are related to national sustainable development strategies, while recognizing that economic growth is a fundamental element of sustainable development. Such strategies should be

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1/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

supported by the international community, which should assist developing countries, including through international organizations, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social protection.

4. The Commission recognized that meeting the basic human needs of all and eradicating absolute poverty is an objective of the highest priority that has been regarded as such in all the recent United Nations conferences convened since the World Summit for Children held in 1990. In addition to the relevant conferences and conventions mentioned in its report on its third session, 2/ the Commission welcomed the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. 3/ The Commission noted, in particular, the important role played by women in poverty eradication strategies and the particularly difficult situations that they face, as described in chapter IV.A of the Platform, as well as the importance of integrating gender perspectives in policies and programmes. The Commission welcomed preparatory work for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which emphasizes the importance of achieving the eradication of absolute poverty, the reduction of overall poverty and the creation of sustainable human settlements for ensuring sustainable development.

5. Since the general problem of poverty in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, is related to political, economic and social marginalization, all efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce overall poverty within the context of sustainable development must be accompanied by mechanisms that would effectively address those issues.

6. The Commission suggests to the Economic and Social Council that in its future work the Commission focus its attention on the interlinkages between poverty and the environment, taking into account the fact that poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains, and recognizing that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

3/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Agenda item 11

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Adam Vai DELANEY (Papua New Guinea)

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 April to 3 May 1996. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to _____ meetings).

2. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Henrique Cavalcanti (Brazil), who also made a statement.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of _____ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex _____ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 1st and 4th meetings, on 18 and 19 April 1996, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Rumen Gechev (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chairmen: Enrique Provencio (Mexico)
Paul de Jongh (Netherlands)
Adam Vai Delaney (Papua New Guinea)
Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania)

6. At the 5th meeting, on 22 April 1996, Adam Vai Delaney (Papua New Guinea) was elected to serve also as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At the 1st meeting, on 18 April 1996, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.17/1996/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Cross-sectoral issues, with particular reference to the critical elements of sustainability (Agenda 21, chapters 2-5).

4. Financial resources and mechanisms (Agenda 21, chapter 33).

5. Review of cross-sectoral clusters:

   (a) Education, science and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 34, 36 and 37;

   (b) Decision-making structures, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 8 and 38-40;

   (c) Role of major groups, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 23-32.

6. Review of sectoral clusters:

   (a) Protection of the atmosphere (Agenda 21, chapter 9) and protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas (Agenda 21, chapter 17);

   (b) Progress report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

(c) Progress report on the implementation of the decisions made by the Commission at its second and third sessions.

7. Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8. Other matters.

9. High-level meeting.

10. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its fourth session are listed in annex _____ to the present report.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission

(New York, 7-25 April 1997)

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

4. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session.

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OTHER MATTERS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

The Commission on Sustainable Development decides, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/113, entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", to devote its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group meeting, to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, in New York, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session of the Assembly.

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CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY (AGENDA 21, CHAPS. 2-5)

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information provided by Governments and organizations

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development noted with appreciation the receipt of information from 74 States and 11 organizations. It welcomed the country presentations on coastal area management and national sustainable development strategies.

2. The Commission welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat in trying to simplify the guidelines for the 1996 session which had facilitated the provision of information on national and other relevant experience in implementing Agenda 21, and the summary report on that information.

3. The Commission requested relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as donors, to consider favourably requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance to help developing countries with the preparation of national strategies for sustainable development, national Agenda 21 action plans and periodic communications and reports on these activities to the Commission. The Commission noted with appreciation the intention of several donors and organizations to favourably consider such requests.

4. The Commission welcomes and supports the preparation of country profiles by the Secretariat for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, as envisaged in Assembly resolution 50/113. These country profiles, to be prepared in close cooperation with the Governments concerned, and based on voluntary information submitted by these Governments, will provide a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the

national level. In this context, the Commission appeals to countries to provide information and to cooperate with the Secretariat on this matter.

5. The Commission requests the Secretariat to consult members at an appropriate time on proposals for reporting to future sessions, taking into account, among other elements, the work on indicators for sustainable development.

6. The Commission noted that, in this period following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, States are being confronted with a growing number of reporting requirements in the field of sustainable development. In order to reduce duplication of work, the Commission requests the Secretary-General to provide, in cooperation with interested States, the Commission at its fifth session with proposals for streamlining national reporting in the field of sustainable development. The country profiles could be the initial step towards streamlining reporting requirements.

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Agenda item 5 (c)

REVIEW OF CROSS-SECTORAL CLUSTERS: ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21, CHAPTERS 23-32

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Major groups (chapters 23-32 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Welcomed the contributions of major groups to its fourth session and their continued participation in Agenda 21 follow-up at the local, national, regional and international levels. Their commitment to sustainable development objectives strengthens the Commission's work and efforts in this direction throughout the world;

(b) Also welcomed the work of the major group sectors in preparing the Day of the Workplace and the youth panel/exhibition for the fourth session of the Commission. The Commission also welcomed the financial and other support provided by Governments and international organizations to these special events and called on Governments, international organizations and the private sector to continue assisting through these activities in the preparations for future events;

(c) Underlined the positive experience gained from the special events focusing on particular major groups and recognized that the success of these events was due in part to the partnerships catalysed among the major group partners and their networks;

(d) Welcomed General Assembly resolution 50/113 in which the Assembly recognized the important role played by major groups at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations and recognized the need for their active involvement in

preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

(e) Recognizing the important contribution by all major groups on issues related to sustainable development, invites their active participation both during the preparations for and at both the 1997 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the five-year comprehensive review of Agenda 21;

(f) Welcomed the initiative of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, together with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, to assess the state of local Agenda 21 initiatives through a world-wide survey, and invited Governments and the national sustainable development coordination institutions to give their full support in gathering this valuable information for the 1997 review process;

(g) Emphasized the need to preserve and expand major group participation, as appropriate, in the Commission on Sustainable Development and in relevant international organizations whose work is an essential part of the Agenda 21 follow-up process;

(h) Recognizing the efforts of major groups organizations, in particular non-governmental organizations, in mobilizing technical and financial assistance to support the sustainable development initiatives of developing countries, encouraged further action in this regard, particularly by those organizations that are able to effect such action.

2. The Commission therefore:

(a) Encourages all parties to uphold the objective of partnership in their collaboration with major groups at all levels and in preparation for the special events that may be organized in the context of the 1997 review;

(b) Encourages Governments and international organizations to actively support the initiatives of major groups aiming to make contributions to the 1997 review;

(c) Encourages Governments to involve major groups representatives in the preparations for the 1997 review process at the national level and to favourably consider including major group representatives in national delegations to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and, as appropriate and in accordance with the appropriate rules of procedure, to the special session of the General Assembly in June 1997;

(d) Supports the recommendations agreed to at the second session 1/ and the third session 2/ of the Commission and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decisions 1994/300 and 1995/235 concerning the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Commission, and recommends that the Council, at its substantive session of 1996, decide to keep those non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission by Council decision 1993/220 on the Roster, as envisaged in Council decision 1993/215;

(e) Invites the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to ensure, in conformity with Assembly resolution 50/113, appropriate arrangements for the most effective contribution to and active involvement of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the special session of the Assembly in 1997;

(f) Requests United Nations organizations to foster the emerging trends towards greater openness and transparency with respect to major groups, and calls upon them, as appropriate, to broaden the scope of their cooperation with major groups;

(g) Requests major groups to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on positive examples of recent international meetings, conferences and panels where innovative approaches to major group participation have been taken;

(h) Emphasizes the need to achieve comprehensive reporting as well as independent assessments as prepared by major groups, and requests the secretariat of the Commission as well as other United Nations bodies to maintain continuous collaboration with major groups;

(i) Requests further efforts by Governments, United Nations organizations and other bodies to develop simple and accessible information materials related to Agenda 21 so as to assist people at the local level in taking a more active role both in assessing social, economic and environmental conditions, and in participating in decision-making processes for sustainable development at the local level.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 13 (E/1994/33/Rev.1), chap. I, para. 21 (a).

2/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 26.

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REVIEW OF CROSS-SECTORAL CLUSTERS: DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21, CHAPTERS 8 AND 38-40

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

International institutional arrangements
(Chapter 38 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/CN.17/1996/16) as well as the more detailed background paper on the subject. The Commission noted that the institutional arrangements put in place in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at various levels have served the international community well over the last four years;

(b) Noted the new and innovative elements introduced into the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and considered that these functional considerations, including the working methods and multi-year programme of work of the Commission, will be an important element of the 1997 review process;

(c) Welcomed General Assembly resolution 50/113, in particular paragraph 13, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, and in the implementation of related outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities;

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(d) Also welcomed the system-wide cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, through its system of task managers, in implementing Agenda 21;

(e) Reaffirmed the importance placed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the coordinated follow-up of international conferences and the need to coordinate the multi-year programmes of all relevant functional commissions and the division of labour among them;

(f) Welcomed the proposed review by the Economic and Social Council of the regional commissions, with a view, inter alia, to strengthening, as appropriate, their participation relating to the implementation of the results of major United Nations international conferences;

(g) Recognized the major steps made by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in accordance with its mandate and in implementation of Agenda 21, to provide effective support to the work of the Commission, inter alia, through the provision of scientific, technical and legal information and policy advice on the environment. In this context, the Commission welcomed decisions adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its eighteenth session, in which the Governing Council of UNEP specified ways in which UNEP could support the Commission and encouraged closer cooperation and collaboration between UNEP and other organizations;

(h) Welcomed initiatives taken by bilateral, regional, intergovernmental and United Nations system organizations, as well as financial institutions, that integrate sustainable development as a central focus into their policies and programmes to facilitate Agenda 21 implementation.

2. The Commission therefore:

(a) Encourages national Governments to ensure that their countries' institutional arrangements further promote the implementation of Agenda 21, while ensuring the broad participation of all stakeholders;

(b) Emphasizes the need for the Commission to continue providing guidance on key sustainable development issues and playing a leading role in providing the forum for reviewing national, regional and international efforts, including, as appropriate, the role of major groups, in the pursuit of sustainable development;

(c) Stresses the need for all relevant bodies of the United Nations system to make further efforts to make sustainable development a central focus of their programmes and policies;

(d) Recommends that ever-closer links be established, particularly through the bureaux of the organizations concerned, between the work of the Commission and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council so as to ensure that the Commission can contribute to and/or draw on the relevant output of other bodies in a timely manner and to avoid duplication of work. The multi-year programmes of work of the commissions, to be coordinated by the

Council, should be seen as an important instrument for facilitating the linkage among those commissions;

(e) Encourages the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to continue to enhance inter-agency coordination, inter alia, by promoting a more focused approach to coordination and close collaboration aimed at elaborating action-oriented recommendations on main policy and cooperation issues. The Commission has requested the Committee to continue its work aimed at ensuring complementarity of efforts and avoidance of duplication and overlap in United Nations system activities to implement Agenda 21 and to keep the Commission informed of its activities through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC);

(f) Recommends that the 1997 review give special attention also to post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development institutional arrangements in order to ensure their continued relevance and increased effectiveness in the years to come. In this regard, possible results of the ongoing negotiations on the further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, on an agenda for development and on other related reform processes, such as the High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, will be taken into account to promote better coordination among various United Nations bodies;

(g) Recommends that the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly should examine the institutional implications for forging new alliances for sustainable development between the United Nations and other major organizations relevant for sustainable development, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Bretton Woods institutions, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Trade Organization, as well as between Governments and civil society.

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REVIEW OF CROSS-SECTORAL CLUSTERS: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21, CHAPTERS 34, 36 AND 37

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Promoting education, public awareness and training
(Chapter 36 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Welcoming the many initiatives undertaken to promote education, public awareness and training for sustainable development, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General thereon and its addendum (E/CN.17/1996/14 and Add.1), noted the progress made in cooperative initiatives such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP);

(b) Reaffirmed that education, public awareness and training are critical for promoting sustainable development and increasing the capacity to address environment and development issues, and that therefore the implementation of chapter 36 of Agenda 21 will influence progress in the implementation of all the other chapters of Agenda 21;

(c) Noted that recommendations concerning education appear in the action plans of all of the major United Nations conferences and conventions adopted after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) Also noted the series of international meetings and studies that had taken place since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to discuss the status and future directions of environment and development

education, and expressed its appreciation to the Czech Republic for having organized the inter-sessional workshop on "Education and public awareness for sustainable development" (Prague, 28 November-1 December 1995), which had put forward to the Commission recommendations for use in preparing a work programme. The Commission also recognized the work of UNESCO's International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century;

(e) Recognized that education for sustainable development needs to be understood as part of a broad new vision of education as a lifelong process. This will require restructuring and reform of formal education, as well as the utilization of all non-formal channels, including distance education*;

(f) Drew attention to the need to further refine the concept of education for sustainable development and to identify the key messages;

(g) Reiterated the importance of basic education for all and of lifelong learning about environment and development. Traditional knowledge should be valued and not submerged in this process;

(h) Recognized the potential of technical and vocational education and training in the promotion of sustainable development in key economic sectors;

(i) Stressed the need to give greater emphasis to the role of education for sustainable development, including environmental economics, as well as public awareness in changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns and lifestyles;

(j) Underlined the important role that the media and the advertising industry can play in raising public awareness about sustainable development, including changes in unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;

(k) Recognized the need to give increasing emphasis to raising awareness and taking action in implementing Agenda 21 at the community and municipality levels, as well as to targeting households as a key point of entry;

(l) Stressed the need to broaden cooperation at the international level, building on past experience, in particular that of the UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Programme, and involving all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, Governments and major groups, in particular non-governmental organizations, business and industry, youth and the educational community. A new cooperative arrangement should be developed that is bold and imaginative and concentrates on a limited number of key undertakings during the next four or five years.

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* Formal education refers to education in schools, and non-formal education to all other types of education.

2. The Commission, taking into account relevant linkages with the programme of work on changing production and consumption patterns adopted at its third session, therefore, agreed to initiate a programme of work in the context of which it:

(a) Urges UNESCO as task manager for chapter 36 to actively pursue, in partnership with UNEP, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other key institutions, international initiatives that lead towards a broad alliance for education for sustainable development taking into account the experience of the UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Programme and other relevant programmes, and to promote networks on education and training for sustainable development at all levels, particularly at the grass-roots level;

(b) Urges the United Nations system, Governments and major groups to implement in an integrated manner the recommendations concerning education, public awareness and training contained in the action plans of all the major United Nations conferences and conventions adopted after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(c) Invites UNESCO, working in close cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the educational and scientific communities, to advise on how education and training for sustainable development can be integrated into national educational policies;

(d) Calls upon UNESCO to refine the concept and key messages of education for sustainable development, taking into account the experience of environmental education and integrating considerations pertaining to population, health, economics, social and human development, and peace and security;

(e) Urges Governments to advance education and training for sustainable development, with assistance as appropriate from the United Nations system and other relevant international bodies. The Commission encourages the involvement of the educational community, the sharing of experience (including among the youth themselves) and the highlighting of best practices, in particular within local communities in the preparation and implementation of action plans to this effect;

(f) Calls upon developed countries, international organizations and the private sector to assist in promoting education, public awareness and training in developing countries, through the provision of financial and technical support;

(g) Encourages the development of new partnership arrangements among educators, scientists, Governments, non-governmental organizations, business and industry, youth, the media and other major groups, to communicate the key messages of sustainable development through both formal and non-formal channels. The new communications technologies should be exploited for this purpose. Education and training for sustainable development should be based on a broad participatory approach, taking into account local needs and values;

(h) Encourages Governments and all relevant stakeholders to work in partnership with youth to strengthen tools for youth empowerment and to provide skills and training to prepare youth for decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods;

(i) Urges the Bretton Woods institutions to analyse their current investments in education, with respect to the needs of promoting education for sustainable development;

(j) Requests the Secretary-General to take the preliminary results of this work programme into account in the context of the 1997 review of education, public awareness and training.

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REVIEW OF CROSS-SECTORAL CLUSTERS: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries

(Chapter 37 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on capacity-building for sustainable development (E/CN.17/1996/15 and Add.1), notes the enhanced understanding and recognition in the international community of capacity-building issues, which has led to a greater focus on strengthening national capacities for designing national plans and strategies for sustainable development;

(b) Welcomes the efforts of those countries that have taken significant steps towards capacity-building by formulating national Agenda 21 strategies, conservation strategies and environmental action plans, expresses its appreciation to those organizations, notably the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which have provided assistance to those efforts and encourages the continuation of such support;

(c) Notes the existence of long-standing institutional and other constraints in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition that need to be overcome when implementing national strategies and affirms, in this connection, that the sharing of experiences and insights from diverse capacity-building situations and measures constitutes the basis for a

collaborative learning process, noting, in this context, that the African High-Level Meeting on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1995, led to the adoption of a plan of action on EIA for African countries;

(d) Emphasizes the importance of donor collaboration and coordination, highlights, in this context, the relevant role of capacity-building while promoting a more participatory approach, recognizes that there is a greater role for information technology in capacity-building and notes the planned Workshop on Capacity-Building for the Environment, to be held in November 1996 under the sponsorship of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

2. The Commission therefore:

(a) Stresses the need to keep capacity-building as one of the central objectives in the promotion of development projects and programmes in developing countries in accordance with their national priorities and stresses, in this context, the need for a long-term commitment and systematic focus in pursuing capacity-building efforts;

(b) Urges Governments and international organizations to share experiences in capacity-building and assist the developing countries through strengthened international cooperation programmes for sustainable development;

(c) Calls upon Governments and international organizations to enhance coordinated efforts to assist developing countries in their own capacity-building efforts and to encourage the active involvement of non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other major groups, in the capacity-building of developing countries;

(d) Encourages United Nations programmes and funds, including UNDP and other relevant organizations, to continue to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacities in planning and policy-making for sustainable development through consultative processes and requests UNDP to further disseminate the results of programmes and evaluations of Capacity 21 projects undertaken at the country level;

(e) Encourages further work in carrying out action- and problem-oriented research on capacity-building issues in specific priority areas at the national level by concerned international, bilateral and non-governmental organizations.

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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Integrating environment and development in decision-making

(Chapter 8 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1996/11 and Add.1), notes the progress made at the national level in providing a framework that integrates economic, social and environmental policies.

2. The Commission recognizes that responsibility for bringing about changes aiming at integrating environment and development in decision-making lies with national Governments, and encourages Governments to establish national mechanisms, where appropriate, and to develop an integrated approach and participatory strategies for sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental aspects of growth.

3. The Commission requests organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to support the efforts of Governments to integrate environment and development in decision-making by, inter alia, strengthening coordination and exchange of information on "best practices" relating to sustainable development strategies.

4. The Commission calls on organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in cooperation with Governments and, as appropriate, major group organizations, to place a high priority on actions aimed at supporting national

coordination and planning activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21; consistent guidelines for national execution of projects and programmes should be provided to support this process.

5. The Commission calls on Governments to review, as appropriate, their national legislation in the light of the integrated nature of sustainable development and the need to implement international legal agreements and conventions. It requests the international community to continue and strengthen support for developing the capacities of developing countries for this purpose.

6. The Commission, having noted the work on integrated environmental and economic accounting being undertaken by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, and calls upon them, inter alia, to continue the work in this area, particularly with regard to methodological development and technical cooperation.

7. The Commission recalls the importance of integrated environmental and economic accounting for sustainable development, and encourages Governments to undertaken further national activities in this area.

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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information for decision-making

(Chapter 40 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making (E/CN.17/1996/18 and Add.1), welcomes the measures taken by Governments to make information more accessible to decision makers at the national level.

2. The Commission expresses its appreciation of the meetings held during the inter-sessional period to further the work and understanding of issues addressed in chapter 40 of Agenda 21, particularly as they relate to indicators of sustainable development, Earthwatch, Development Watch, the establishment of common and compatible systems of access to data, and common core data sets.

3. The Commission takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the work programme on indicators of sustainable development, approved at its third session, and welcomes that progress, particularly with regard to the preparation of methodology sheets for the various indicators.

4. The Commission invites Governments to test, develop and use the indicators of sustainable development based, inter alia, on the work done to date, as appropriate, on identifying the indicators and preparing the corresponding methodology sheets. In this regard, Governments are encouraged, as appropriate,

to adopt indicators at the national level and to consider the advantages of working in partnership with other countries in the testing, further development and use of the indicators. For example, twinning between countries with more and less experience in using indicators could prove beneficial to both.

5. The Commission expresses its appreciation of the conclusions of the meeting on common and compatible systems of access to data, and requests the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, and within available resources, to establish a sustainable development home page on the World Wide Web, with "hot links" to relevant databases throughout the United Nations system, as a means to facilitate access by countries to sources of information relevant to sustainable development.

6. The Commission requests the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Informatics to give particular attention to devising a means of facilitating the access of States Members of the United Nations to environmental databases throughout the United Nations system, within available resources.

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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

International legal instruments and mechanisms
(Chapter 39 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on international legal instruments and mechanisms (E/CN.17/1996/17 and Add.1), welcomes the progress made in reflecting the integrated nature of sustainable development in international legal instruments and in the further development of international law related to the implementation of Agenda 21.

2. The Commission takes note of the report of the Expert Group on the Identification of Principles of International Law for Sustainable Development, which was made available to the Commission as a background document, and expresses its appreciation of the work of the Expert Group, which was convened by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat.

3. The Commission recalls that at its second session it requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to study further the concept, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law; welcomed the adoption by the Governing Council of UNEP of decision 18/9 for the further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development; and noted with appreciation the steps undertaken by UNEP towards the review of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law scheduled for 1997 as an important contribution to achieving the tasks set out in Agenda 21.

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4. The Commission recognizes the potential value of identifying generally recognized principles of international law as they pertain to sustainable development and decides to keep this issue under review at its session in 1997 with a view to its further consideration by the General Assembly at its special session, and to take into account the results of the review of the Montevideo Programme, as appropriate.

5. The Commission calls upon Governments to consider, as appropriate, the work of the Expert Group in the development of both national legislation and national policies for sustainable development, and requests Governments to provide information on their experiences in this regard.

6. The Commission considers flexible approaches as important in international law-making, as they allow international consensus to develop, especially under new scientific and technical information, and recognizes the positive role of framework conventions and of non-legally binding instruments as steps in the evolution of international rule-making related to sustainable development.

7. The Commission emphasizes the necessity, as recognized in UNEP Governing Council decision 18/9, of further exploring, in the interest of sustainable development, mechanisms for dispute settlement or avoidance and, with the aim of preventing international disputes, for facilitating the implementation of international environmental instruments by assisting and encouraging parties to fulfil their obligations and commitments, and notes that, in the case of several international environmental instruments, such mechanisms have either become operative, have been established, or are at present under discussion.

8. The Commission urges the international community to continue to develop procedures and mechanisms that promote informed decisions, mutual understanding and confidence-building with a view to avoiding or resolving disputes.

9. In this context, the Commission notes the importance of compliance and monitoring mechanisms of international agreements, including reporting requirements, and stresses the importance of national and local capacity-building aimed at improving compliance, monitoring, inspection and enforcement of international obligations.

10. The Commission recommends the exploration of more effective participation of major groups in the elaboration of international legal instruments and mechanisms in the field of sustainable development.

11. The Commission recognizes the administrative burden imposed, particularly on the developing countries, by the implementation of international agreements, and recognizes the need for consolidation and integration of procedures, and for cooperation among the secretariats of different conventions to this end.

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REVIEW OF CROSS-SECTORAL CLUSTERS: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/1996/13 and Add.1), which provided an overview of the policies and initiatives taken and the results achieved in the implementation of the work programme on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) approved by the Commission at its third session.

2. The Commission welcomes the initiatives taken by countries and organizations to organize inter-sessional meetings on specific elements of the work programme, and notes that the above-mentioned report made use of those meetings.

3. The Commission reaffirms the relevance of the work programme, and urges Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, the secretariats of the various international conventions, and major groups, particularly business and industry, to further implement the work programme.

4. The Commission recognizes that new and efficient technologies will be essential to increase the capabilities of countries, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development, sustain the world's economy, protect the environment and alleviate poverty.

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5. The Commission also recognizes that the level of technology transfer and technological transformation required to accelerate progress towards cleaner, more efficient systems of production in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition can be realized through financial support and partnership arrangements with donor countries and agencies, as well as with the encouragement of private-sector initiatives and investments.

6. The Commission reaffirms the need for Governments and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure that women have equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in educational, scientific and technological activities, particularly as participants in and beneficiaries of technology innovation, transfer and diffusion.

7. The Commission urges Governments of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition to adopt appropriate environmental legislation that will enhance the successful diffusion of ESTs in their own countries. They are also encouraged to develop and implement an appropriate mix of policy measures, including regulations and economic instruments and incentives aimed at stimulating the adoption of cleaner production technologies and improved, more efficient systems of production that emphasize pollution prevention and waste minimization and recycling, with particular attention to the adoption of such systems by small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

8. The Commission encourages Governments, the private sector and industry to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the access to and transfer of ESTs and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as well as technological cooperation, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

9. The Commission encourages the greater use of partnership arrangements in and between the private and public sectors, including through voluntary agreements, as a means to achieve commonly agreed environmental goals and objectives and to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits that can accrue through the application of cleaner production technologies and methods and eco-efficiency concepts.

10. The Commission urges countries, international and business organizations to share information on the use and effectiveness of policy measures adopted by Governments and the private sector to promote, develop or create greater demand for technology and technological innovations aimed at changing methods of production, including improving efficiency in the use of energy and natural resources and in reducing pollution and waste.

11. The Commission urges Governments of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the assistance of regional institutions and international organizations, to strengthen the role of technology centres, where necessary, including cleaner production centres and information clearing-houses, as intermediaries and facilitators for the transfer of ESTs, inter alia, to SMEs. In this regard, innovative partnerships between and sharing of experience by and among such centres should be promoted to

increase interaction and to benefit from methods that have proven successful in other contexts.

12. The Commission encourages Governments and national research and technology centres to conduct national technology needs assessment pilot projects in priority areas of development and environment, as appropriate. In identifying priority areas, national environmental action plans or sustainable development strategies, where existing, may be used. Governments may wish to include business associations and other stakeholders in national technology needs assessment exercises. The private sector, in particular, would be in a position to pursue investment opportunities that are generated through national technology needs assessment and to thereby enhance technology cooperation.

13. The Commission calls upon Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen, with the assistance of donors, where necessary, EST support structures, including technical advisory or consultancy services, marketing support, legal advice, research and development and laboratory facilities and services with the aim of facilitating the successful transfer and development of ESTs. Assistance in project formulation, negotiation and technology sourcing and matchmaking may be needed. In this regard, the private sector could also play an important role.

14. The Commission invites the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue its work to develop an EST information system network so as to increase compatibility and cooperation among information systems and sources related to ESTs, and to keep the Commission informed of its progress. In this context, UNEP is invited to consider developing and maintaining a catalogue of EST-related information systems, and to eventually make such a catalogue publicly available in printed form or on diskette and through global networks, such as the Internet.

15. The Commission takes note of the further development of the International Organization for Standardization standard ISO 14000 and other environmental management standards, such as eco-audit standards and schemes, and invites countries to share information and experiences on the impact of such standards on the demand for and wider application of ESTs and cleaner production methods.

16. The Commission urges Governments to apply, in cooperation with business and industry, appropriate measures that would assist local companies, in particular SMEs, in accessing financial markets to facilitate technological cooperation and technology transfer. In this context, priority may be given to improving the overall availability of finance to SMEs through appropriate measures that stimulate investments.

17. The Commission invites business and industry, including transnational corporations, to take steps aimed at (a) facilitating the access of SMEs to financial markets and ESTs, and (b) promoting capacity-building, in particular in developing countries.